



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-6000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

MEMORANDUM FOR: Matthew E. Ammon, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Policy Development and Research, R

FROM: Calvin C. Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Policy Development and Research, RR

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact under
the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Fiscal Year 2016
Notice of Funding Availability for Research and Evaluation,
Demonstration, and Data Analysis and Utilization (FR-6000-N-29)

It is the finding of this office that the subject Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) does not constitute a major federal action having an individually or cumulatively significant effect on the physical/human environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

This NOFA announces the availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 funds and provides program information and application instructions for Research and Evaluation, Demonstration, and Data Analysis and Utilization (HUDRD). This is a NOFA of up to \$2,900,000 in FY 2016 funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for research and evaluations, demonstration, and data analysis and utilization. These projects examine current HUD programs to provide information to improve them through activities such as designing research and developing work plans, data collection, data analysis and demonstration. The HUDRD has two projects: Project 1. Accessible Housing and Technology Research and Demonstration -to conduct a study on innovations in the design and construction of affordable, accessible and aesthetically pleasing housing, with a particular focus on technological adaptations that can be made to existing housing designs for persons with disabilities, and to identify, evaluate, and test the home modifications and technology innovations necessary to make existing housing accessible. Project 2. Technical Assistance Assessment- to provide a picture of the overall operations of HUD's Technical Assistance (TA) program(s) including the data systems that support HUD TA projects, the NOFA process, and the process by which TA funds are allocated and an in-depth analysis of three to four large, high priority TA projects. The awards will be managed by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research.

The HUDRD program is authorized under Section 501 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. §1701z-1) and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law No: 114-113).

As part of Project 1, this NOFA does permit the construction of prototype rooms and related construction that are constructed as part of the study, but may not be used to provide daytime or overnight accommodation, and are only for providing appropriate conditions for implementing and evaluating test designs, technological adaptation or other research elements. The NOFA requires that any construction or alteration of prototype rooms and related structures that are located in a Special

Flood Hazard Area will require the purchase of flood insurance in the amount required under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4001), and no construction may occur in the Coastal Barrier Resources System designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501).

Lease or rental office space for HUDRD activities is an eligible use of administrative funds, but only under the following conditions:

- (1) The lease must be for existing facilities not requiring rehabilitation or construction except for minimal alterations to make the facilities accessible for a person with disabilities;
- (2) No repairs or renovations of the property may be undertaken with HUDRD funds; and
- (3) Properties in the Coastal Barrier Resources System designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act cannot be leased or rented with federal funds.

In accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), and (b)(5), all activities assisted under this NOFA are categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act and are not subject to environmental review under the related laws and authorities due to their lack of potential for significant environmental impact. However, as noted above, the NOFA requires that in studies under Project 1, any construction or alteration of prototype rooms and related structures that are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area will require the purchase of flood insurance in the amount required under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, and no construction may occur in the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

Accordingly, the Office of Policy Development and Research finds the issuance of this NOFA will not create any significant environmental impacts and will not result in significant impacts on the physical/human environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is hereby made.

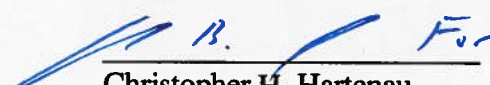
Concurrences:



Danielle Schopp
Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of Environment and Energy, CPD

2/9/2017

Date


Christopher H. Hartenau
Environmental Clearance Officer
Office of General Counsel

2/9/17

Date

Approval:



Matthew E. Ammon
General Deputy Assistant Secretary
Policy Development and Research

2/10/2017
Date